

Minutes of the Takoma Park Nuclear Free Committee
7:30 to 8:30 PM, Lilac Room, Community Center, June 11, 2019
Attending: Jay Levy, Reid Baron, David Lanar, Julie Boddy, Paul Gunter (minutes)

The Committee took a moment to remember the passing of committee member Kitty Tucker.

Paul Gunter introduced an idea of the possibility of Beyond Nuclear and NFTPc jointly sponsoring a screening of the film, "The Beginning of the End of Nuclear Weapons" in Takoma Park or Washington, DC, possibly with another nuclear disarmament organization to strengthen attendance. It includes interviews with leading figures on the nuclear weapons issue including a 14-minute interview with Hiroshima survivor, Setsuko Thurlow. Film details and trailer can be viewed on Beyond Nuclear International website > <https://beyondnuclearinternational.org/2019/06/02/the-beginning-of-the-end-of-nuclear-weapons/> < Further planning discussions are necessary. No date was selected.

We reviewed the TPNFC May showing of "The Nuns, the Priests and the Bomb" in the City Hall Auditorium which included special guest speaker and Takoma Park resident Joe Cirrincione who is also executive director of the Plowshares Fund in Washington, DC. The event was very poorly attended. A better effort on the part of the Committee is needed for event planning and public outreach to improve repeatedly poor attendance if these events are to be worthwhile particularly for the sake of the effort and time expended particularly when a public speaker or film director that is brought in on their own time and expense. Our current mode of public notification is not working. It was suggested that asking the speaker to help publicize the event might help, but this may more reveal a lack of initiative and creativity on the part of the committee than a viable solution to a recurring problem.

Julie mentioned exploring a showing of the cult film "Atomic Cafe" perhaps at a different venue like the Electric Maid on Carroll Ave in Washington, DC to make different contacts particularly with youth. No definitive plans.

The Takoma Park Folk Festival is scheduled for September 8, 2019, 10:30 AM to 6:00 PM. Paul Gunter with Beyond Nuclear has booked a table for Beyond Nuclear for the event and offered to share space with TPNFC. Beyond Nuclear covered the \$50 fee so that materials like TPNFC T-shirts and handbags can be sold. Jay will check inventory. See details at <https://www.tpff.org/>. Setup with materials has to be finished by 10 am. Beyond Nuclear will have literature, books and its banner for the table skirt. The Committee needs to put literature together including "Don't Bank on the Bomb" campaign, re-production of the Nuclear Ban US campaign pamphlets and the NFTPc petition calling on the city to divest from Sun Trust Bank. The NFTPc brochure should be reviewed and updated for print out and distribution. NFTPc should consider how it will display its banner if it is being brought.

The Takoma Foundation “Beer Fest” is scheduled for September 21, 2019. It was noted and briefly discussed that several of its fundraising events in the past were billed as “nuclear free” as a novelty to attract attendance but this year’s theme is re-titled “Takoma Park’s Favorite Night Out.”

Councilmember Peter Kovar (Ward 1) is holding a meet and greet at Takoma Park Beverages on Laurel Street in Old Town Takoma Park was noted and briefly discussed as an opportunity to ask questions and make comments about city divestiture from Sun Trust as part of “Don’t Bank on the Bomb.”

There was a brief discussion on how to bring on new and younger members to the NFTPCC to fill vacancies but no action plan was resolved.

Next meeting is 7:30 to 8:30 PM, July 9, 2019 in Community Center’s Lilac Room.